

EXECUTIVE FILE

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CITE FBIS/LONDON 13413

TO: FBIS, FBIS/OKINAWA, FBIS/SEOUL.

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1. SCENARIO OF SOME KIND OF SEOUL/LONDON OR SEOUL/BBC SPLIT, TO EXTENT WE UNDERSTAND SUGGESTION, IS NON-STARTER AS IT IS PREDICATED ON ADEQUATE RECEPTION OF PEKING RUSSIAN AND MONTSAME AT CAVERSHAM. A CHECK CONDUCTED OVER SEVERAL DAYS TURNED UP ONLY ONE MONITORABLE PEKING RUSSIAN CAST, FAIR/POOR RECEPTION, AND THEN ONLY ON ONE FREQUENCY. MONTSAME WAS UNTRACED, AS WERE MOST OF THE REMAINING PEKING RUSSIAN TRANSMISSIONS.

2. EVEN IF THIS WERE NOT THE CASE, BBC WOULD CERTAINLY BALK AT TAKING ON PEKING RUSSIAN (OR WOULD WANT SOMETHING PRETTY GOOD IN EXCHANGE), AND BUREAU CANNOT ADD TO COMMITMENTS OF ITS PRESENT RUSSIAN VOICE MONITORS. ALSO, WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO EXPAND BUREAU'S COVERAGE/EDITORIAL LOAD, WHICH IS LARGE ENOUGH, AS IT IS.

3. AS TO SENDING PEOPLE FROM CAVERSHAM TO OKINAWA OR SEOUL, BOTH OUR MONITORS ARE TOO NEAR RETIREMENT TO MAKE SUCH A MOVE REALISTIC, WHILE BBC MONITORS VIEW THEIR JOBS AS STEPPING STONES TO CAREER ADVANCEMENT WITHIN BBC AS A WHOLE. CONSEQUENTLY, [REDACTED] FEELS NONE OF THEM WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PERMANENT TRANSFER TO FAR EAST.

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4. IF OKINAWA AND SEOUL ARE UNHAPPY WITH PRESENT SET UP, IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT BETTER ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE ARRIVED AT BY OKINAWA RECRUITING SECOND RUSSIAN MONITOR TO REPLACE WANG AND THEN MOVING BOTH RUSSIANS AND THEIR SLOTS TO SEOUL. BUT WHATEVER IS DONE, I FEEL WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT ACCEPTING ANY FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN FBIS RUSSIAN MONITOR STRENGTH. I'M INCLINED TO AGREE WITH VIEW EXPRESSED BY

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[REDACTED] IN HIS RECENT VOLUME ON BBC BACKUP, THAT WE ARE BELOW THE DANGER POINT ALREADY.

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5. RVW 12 APR 85.

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